

SB NEWSLIN @ ALLBBS \$NLIN.978  
Amateur Radio Newsline #978 13 MAY 1996

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NEWSLINE RADIO - CBBS EDITION #978 - 05/13/96

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The following is late news about Amateur Radio for Radio Amateurs as prepared from NEWSLINE RADIO scripts by the staff of the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, INC., formerly the WESTLINK RADIO NETWORK. Amateur Radio Newsline is a audio news service distributed via telephone.

This hardcopy version is produced by Dale Cary - WD0AKO from scripts provided to him weekly by Newsline. It is then distributed to on-line services, bbs networks and internet user jointly by Dale Cary and Steve Coletti.

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The audio version of Newsline can be recorded from one of the currently operating lines listed below. This list is kept as accurate as possible. If any changes are not listed, please contact Dale Cary, WD0AK0 at the above listed addresses.

#### Audio Version of Newsline

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Los Angeles.....	(213) 462-0008
Los Angeles (Instant Update Line) ..	(805) 296-2407
Seattle.....	(206) 368-3969
Seattle.....	(206) 281-8455
Tacoma.....	(206) 927-7373
Louisville.....	(502) 894-8559
Dayton.....	(513) 275-9991
Chicago.....	(708) 289-0423
New York City.....	(718) 284-0752
Melbourne, Florida.....	(407) 768-7447
Houston, Texas.....	(713) 362-4650
Conroe, Texas.....	(409) 525-6250

#### Electronic Hardcopy Version of Newsline

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GEnie (RTC Bulletin Board).....	m345;1
GEnie (File Library).....	m345;3
Dallas Remote Imaging BBS (DRIG).....	(214) 492-7573
In bulletin number 36	
The Midwest Connection BBS.....	(701) 239-2440
In bulletin number 6 of the ham radio conference	
America Online.....	
Ham Radio forum/Ham Radio General File Library	
Delphi.....	In the ham radio conference
CompuServe/HamNet.....	HamNet Library 0
MicroSoft Network.....	Amateur Radio File Library
Internet.....	In the rec.radio.info newsgroup
Internet FTP: oak.oakland.edu.....	
In archive: pub/hamradio/docs/newsline	
Local BBS's.....	In the Ham Radio conferences on
Fidonet, RIME, Intelec, I-Link, AR-Net and Fringenet.	

#### True Speech Internet Site

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<http://www.scott.net/~wa4fat>

For the latest breaking info call the Instant Update Line listed above. To provide information please call (805) 296-7180. This line answers automatically and will accept up to 30 minutes of material.

Check with your local amateur radio club to see if NEWSLINE can be heard weekly on the air in your area.

Articles may be reproduced if printed in their entirety and credit is given to AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE as being the source.

For further information about the AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE, please write to us with an S.A.S.E. at:

NEWSLINE  
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ  
P.O.Box 660937  
Arcadia, CA  
91066

Thank You,  
NEWSLINE

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Some of the hams of AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE:

WA6ITF WB6MQV WB6FDF K6DUE W6RCL N6AHU N6AWE N6TCQ K6PGX N6PNY KU8R N8DTN  
W9JUV KC9RP K9XI KB4KCH KC5UD KC0HF G8AUU WD0AKO DJ0QN and many others in  
the United States and around the globe!!!

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[978]

The following advisory is not for transmission over amateur radio. This is just a reminder that the address for the Newsline Support Fund is:

Newsline  
c/o Andy Jarema-N6TCQ  
P.O.Box 660937  
Arcadia, California  
91066

Again, and as always, we thank you. This ends the closed circuit with Newsline report number 978 for release on Friday, May 10th 1996 to follow.

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The following is a QST

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Vanity call signs are here and so is Hamvention '96. The stories on both on Newsline report number 978 coming your way right now!

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#### VANITY CALL SIGN FILING GATE 1 OPENS MAY 31

The long awaited vanity call sign program is almost here! As reported last week, the FCC has announced that Gate 1 of the procedure opens May the 31st.

For hams wanting a vanity call sign, the magic date is May 31st. That's when Gate 1 of the FCC's Vanity Call sign program opens. That means that on or after the 31st, you can request a call sign previously held by an individual, a club, or a deceased close relative. You'll pay \$30 and you'll file using FCC form 610-V.

The Commission says you should check its call sign database to make sure the call sign you want is not already assigned. Callsigns are normally available two years after a license expires, is surrendered, is revoked, set aside, voided or if the licensee dies.

Here are the rules about requesting a vanity call sign for your primary station. You must already hold an unexpired amateur operator/primary station license. You may request a call sign that was previously assigned to your primary, secondary, repeater, auxiliary link, control or space station. You can ask for your former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than 2 years. The 2 year requirement does not apply if the call sign was previously assigned to a station of the requester. You do not have to hold a class of operator license required for the call sign group you are requesting. Also, your mailing address does not have to be in the region designated for the call sign you're seeking. The Commission says a call sign requested by a former holder may be in any region.

If you want to apply for the call sign of a deceased close relative, your current amateur radio license must also be of the proper operator class. That means if your relative was general class ham, you must also be licensed as a general class operator. A call sign requested by a close relative of a former holder who is now deceased may be in any region. And again, your mailing address does not have to be in the region for the call sign you seek. Just who is a close relative? The FCC says it can be a spouse, child, grandchild, stepchild, parent, grandparent, stepparent, brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister, aunt, uncle, niece, nephew or in-law.

If you're requesting a formerly held club station call sign, the Commission says you must also hold an unexpired club station license listing you as the trustee. You can request your club station's former call sign even though it has been unassigned for less than two years. The 2 year requirement does not apply to an otherwise eligible club station if the call sign was previously assigned to the club station for which the

requester is the license trustee. And, in this case, your operator license class does not have to match that of the call sign you request. Your mailing address does not have to be in the region designated by the call sign being requested.

Now some advice about sending in the application itself. Again, you pay \$30. You can send a check payable to FCC, a bank draft, a money order or a credit card. If you choose putting it on plastic, you must also fill out and submit FCC form 159 along with your Form 610-V. The Commission specifically says not to send cash.

Your application package should be sent to:

Federal Communications Commission  
Amateur Vanity callsign request  
P.O. Box 358-924  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
15251-5924

If you fail to meet the above eligibility standards, your application will be dismissed.

The next Gate is Gate 1A. Under that gate, club station trustees may request the former call sign of a person who is now deceased, IF the club held a club station license on March 24th, 1995. The FCC says it will announce Gate 1A in a future notice.

For more information about the vanity call sign program you can call the FCC Consumer Assistance Branch at (800) 322-1117.

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#### FCC MAY CHALLENGE ZONING ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS

Those concerned about zoning, deed restrictions and PRB-1 issues will be interested to know that the FCC appears to be considering a challenge to all state and local antenna ordinances. The statement appears to be a public answer to property owners who are organizing opposition to an FCC order that prohibits them from stopping the installation of pizza pie size direct satellite broadcast antennas, and appears to widen the scope of the FCC's thinking on the scope of its preemptive powers. The statement reads as follows:

"Consistent with the approach we adopted for DBS antennas in the Order and Further Notice, in this Notice we propose to adopt a presumptive preemption approach for all governmental restrictions on over the air reception devices, and a full preemption approach for non-governmental restrictions. We seek comment on these proposed approaches and on whether there is any procedural mechanism that might better effectuate the intent of the statute than the approach we adopted in the Order and Further Notice. We will incorporate in this proceeding any relevant comments received in response to the Earth Station Notice and the Order and Further

Notice in IB Docket No. 95-59, so that participants in that proceeding need not resubmit or duplicate their arguments here." -- end quote.

Unless we read it wrong, it sounds as though the FCC is about to challenge an rule that prohibits anyone from installing any sort of antenna or support structure. Nothing is said about a challenge to deed restrictions, but they too may be covered once the scope of the FCC's preemption probe is known.

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#### WISCONSIN PRB-1 BILL TO SEE ACTION

A bill in the Wisconsin legislature that goes further than PRB-1 in limiting local control over amateur antennas comes before that state's Assembly early this month. According to the ARRL Letter, Wisconsin Senate Bill 544 already has been approved by the Senate on a voice vote. Majority Leader Scott R. Jensen, who calls himself a strong sponsor says he looks forward to scheduling the legislation shortly.

Gary Schwartz, K9GS, has been tracking the bill. He says that it specifically says that towers may not be restricted on the basis of height or aesthetics. In fact, the only basis for restriction would be if there is a specific health or safety concern. The measure also says political subdivisions may not enact laws affecting placement, screening or height of Amateur Radio antennas if the ordinance or resolution is based solely on aesthetic considerations.

Wisconsin State Representative Ben Brancel and Senator Richard Grobschmidt are the bill's sponsors. In a letter to other members of the Wisconsin legislature, they say that the bill is modeled after existing provisions of Wisconsin law that restrict localities from regulating certain satellite TV antennas. If enacted and upheld by the courts, it could become the model for hams in other states to follow in seeking relief from restrictive antenna regulations.

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#### PHONE CHANGE

Bill Newkirk, WB9IVR says that Due to a PBX and other telephone changes the Melbourne, Florida Newsline number will change from (407) 768-7447 to (407) 953-1637 effective at 6 PM, May 10, 1996.

Also, a reminder that the Hollywood (213) 462-0008 outgoing line terminates service on or about the 30th of May. California hams should use area code (805) 296-2407 after that date.

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#### MORE TAMPA JAMMERS CAUGHT

A pair of especially foul mouthed two meter repeater jammers were handed

over to sheriffs deputies May 8th after a local ham, believe it or not talked them into meeting him for a beer. Before it was over, one of the jammers went to jail for junk driving and the other is under investigation for interfering with emergency communications. A two meter handheld radio was recovered for finger and RF printing and it is suspected to be stolen.

Jim, K2UDP, did the fast talking and fast thinking on the 147.105 repeater. Twice luring the jammers to a bar of their choice as four other club members used direction finding gear to track the suspects.

Jim's persistence and smooth talk eventually were rewarded after two and a half hours during which the jammer calling himself Kevin said quote, "My mother didn't raise stupid kids."

Incredibly jammer Kevin then preceded to meet K2UDP at the bar. Jim says, Kevin claimed to be a general class ham who knew amateur radio, as Jim put it, to be dangerous. After the jammer expressed an interest in buying a hot radio, Jim ducked out of the bar pretending to get a hot radio out of his car and instead radioed the other amateurs who were watching his back to call police.

As luck would have it, the club group had met local deputies during previous direction finding efforts to find the same jammers. Aware that emergency communications were being interfered with, the deputies quickly responded and opened an investigation.

After finger printing the Radio Shack HTX-202 they planned to pass the recovered radio on to the FCC for comparison against RF prints recorded over the bay area repeaters here in the last few months.

Earlier this year, Newsline reported the capture of three other Tampa jammers, but at deadline there is no word from the U.S. Attorneys office regarding possible prosecutions in those earlier cases.

Asked how the experience of, I your face, confront the jammer negotiations had left him, Jim, K2UDP said he was saddened by it all. Sez Jim, the guy had me so upset for the last couple of weeks I wanted to reach inside the speaker and get my hands around his neck. Now, Jim added, it's just hard to believe a human being could do stuff like that.

We'll keep you up to date.

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#### NEW INTERNET RADIO SERVICE

A new radio service is coming. On April 25, the FCC opened the door for wireless access to the Internet - but some of the frequencies being proposed include a microwave ham band. CQ VHF magazine Editor Rich Moseson, NW2L, spoke with FCC officials and says there's opportunity for hams as well as risk.

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making would permit unlicensed Part 15 devices to use two chunks of microwave spectrum including part of the 5cm ham band for linking computers to each other in so-called "wireless LANs," or Local Area Networks, and for radio access to the Internet. These devices would operate between 5.15 and 5.35 GHz, plus 5.725 to 5.875 GHz. This

latter segment is part of the 5.65 - 5.925 GHz band currently available to hams as a secondary, shared, allocation. An FCC official told CQ VHF the proposal would not impose any limits on amateur operations on the band, noting that the unlicensed devices proposed for use there would operate at very low power, would have to accept interference from licensed users and would not be permitted to cause interference to current users.

Amateurs operating on the band must already accept interference from satellites, industrial, scientific and medical equipment, and must not cause interference to satellites.

What's the impact for hams? Not much at the moment, since there's very little ham activity on five centimeters. As for the future, while there's likely to be competition for frequency space from this new service if it's approved there's also the opportunity afforded by having big-name commercial manufacturers fighting over who can provide the lowest-cost equipment for access to the band. And we wouldn't even have to retune the gear!

The NPRM is ET Docket 96-102. Comment and reply deadlines hadn't been set by air time.

If this new 5 GHz service come into being it could mean a lot of low cost equipment that would be adaptable for loner range use by hams.

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#### NC BALLOON

Dave Mullenix, N9LTD, of Easy Sat fame reports that the University of Wisconsin is in the early stages of planning a professional balloon launch. The launch will be from the National Balloon Facility in New Mexico, will go to about 150,000 feet and stay aloft for approximately 24 hours. The gondola will be stabilized and weight approximately one ton.

Dave tells Newsline that the planners are trying to make room for small, self contained modules from third parties. The modules will have to contain their own power supplies and accept an on/off control from the gondola. The good part is that RF emission will be allowed, though on a strict non-interference basis. Since the gondola is still being designed, there's a good chance they can mount antennas for the modules as well.

Weight and size limits haven't been set yet, but the smaller the better. We're talking a few pounds, total, maybe 10 at the outside.

If the proposal is accepted by NASA, construction should start late this year with the launch about two years in the future. This means that it might be possible to include an Amateur Radio package if someone wants to build it.

If anybody has a payload that's going to be available in this time frame, please send information on it to N9LTD and he will forward it to the ham on the design team.

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#### MID EAST COOPERATION



From the middle East comes word that ham radio activity between Israeli and Arab bloc countries continues to reflect the easing of tensions in the Middle East. The Israeli ham radio publication HaGAL International newsletter reports that Hams in the gulf state of Oman have proposed cooperation with Israeli hams in relaying traffic, and Oman has made available its satellite station. In addition, hams in Israel report messages from hams in countries that formerly would have nothing to do with Israel. Tunisia has rescinded its ban on contacting Israeli hams, and contacts with neighboring Jordan have become commonplace.

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#### OIL SPILL HAM HELP

United Kingdom ham radio operators are being lauded for their involvement in the oil "clean-up" operation following the grounding of the tanker, Sea Empress. The GB2RS News Service says that forty-three amateurs who are members of Pembrokeshire Raynet, North Dyfed Raynet, the Carmarthen Amateur Radio Society Emergency Team and other radio clubs throughout West Wales took part in three weeks of work providing communications along the 30 mile stretch of coastline. The local Oil Pollution Officer, Barry Evans, GW0TVY, called out the amateurs when it was realized that the existing VHF communications and Cell phone network did not completely cover the area affected.

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#### HAPPENING AT HAMVENTION '96

Finally, the 1996 Dayton Hamvention begins this Friday, May the 17th. Thanks to the date change it now appears that this could be the biggest Hamvention ever. How big? One posting on the America On Line ham radio bulletin board says that the nearest hotel rooms still available are an hour away in Indiana and Hamvention General Chairman Ken Allen, KB8KE says that a lot more hams from the far North are expected as well:

"We're expecting a larger ham contingent from Canada this year more than normal. That Monday is their Victoria Day. So it's a three day weekend for them. The reports we get from some of the folks we talked to threw the year in Canada said we should see better attendance from the Canadian amateurs." KB8KE

As has become tradition, many of the Newsline staff will be at Hamvention '96. You can meet them Saturday morning at 9:30 at the Hamvention Media Relations Forum being held this year at Meadowdale High School. Also Newsline producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF will be at the Worldradio and Ham Radio Bookstore booths part of the time. He says to stop by and say hello.

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And for this week, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline. You can write to us at:

NEWSLINE  
P.O.Box 660937  
Arcadia, California  
91066

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF at our editors desk, we at Newsline say 73 and we thank you for listening.

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